

RESOLUTION No. 2.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I don't move my resolution, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Especially when federal matters are under discussion, it will be embarrassing the Government if Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar had moved his resolution for discussion. On behalf of the House as well as Government, let me thank the Honourable member for not moving his resolution.

Working hours of the Arrack and Toddy shops.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I move the following resolution:

"This Assembly recommends to Government that the working hours of the Arrack and Toddy shops should be shortened from 9 p. m. to 6 p. m."

I do not think any argument is necessary on my part to convince the House of the necessity for introducing a scheme by which the drink evil could be reduced. The demand I have raised in the resolution is a moderate one. The labourers after returning from the workshop visit the toddy shops first and then only return home. There should be no scope for them to visit the toddy shops after their labour hours. This is my first point.

PRESIDENT: According to the terms of the resolution, does the member want a labourer to visit the toddy shop during its working hours?

MR. N. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I do not hear the question. As I said, a labourer visits the toddy shop after his work and spends all the money in his possession. When he returns home, his family gets no money. There is actual starvation in his house. Generally, a labourer returns home at 9 p. m. Before he comes, his family would have got the necessary vegetables and cooked food for him. Instead of the food, he drinks toddy and returns home at 11 or 12 in mid-night. That is the situation.

Secondly, a labourer after his drink, commits public nuisance. In day time, there is no such thing ordinarily. During night, the labourers abuse all sorts of respectable persons and thus spend their days. A question might be asked whether complaints on this account could not be lodged with the Police for due action. That could be done. But there is one difficulty. In rural parts, unfortunately, it is the Police Officer who drinks and causes abuse on respectable men in the locality. I am sorry to find that the Inspector General of Police is not here at the moment. Anyway, that is what happens in rural areas. The very persons who ought to check public nuisance commit nuisance regularly. This state of affairs should be put a stop to immediately. That could be done only by reducing the working hours from 9. p. m. to 6 p. m. In Bombay and its suburbs the Congress Government are doing all they can to stop the drink evil. Enormous

sums are spent for educating the masses and abstain them from drinking.

In Orissa the Prime Minister is prepared to lose one third of the revenue, i. e., Rs. 9.8 lakhs. In Madras the Ministry is prepared to lose Rs. 42 lakhs. There is a great deal of opposition and yet the Premier of Madras is not prepared to give up the attempt. He wants to see that the whole Presidency is dry. Almost all Provincial Governments are prepared to lose heavily. If our Government also make a change in the working hours of these toddy shops it may result only in a loss of Rs 25 or 30 thousand. It is only a very moderate demand.

Another point that I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this. Government have made a change by R. O. C. No. 414 of 36 Development dated 27-3-1936 by which the working hours of toddy shop have been extended from 8. p. m. to 9 p. m. I do not know for what purpose it has been done so. Probably it may be to derive more revenue from the poor peasants and labourers. That is a very serious blot to the administration of the present Dewan. I do hope that in a few hours or days this system will be changed.

With regard to the Excise policy it has been very often pronounced that the avowed policy of Government is prohibition. But they are not for prohibition to any extent. They care for the excise revenue and not for the good of the people. On page 7, of the Administration Report of the Excise Department for the year 1112 it is stated:—"All the above measures have been tried in Travancore pursuant to the declared policy of the Government as set forth above; but experience gained from the working of the prohibition measures does not in fuse in me any hope for the ultimate fulfilment of the declared policy."

One cannot understand what is stated in these sentences. With these words, I move the resolution for the acceptance of this honourable House. I hope the Excise Commissioner will not oppose it.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : I second it.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : I oppose this motion. I am very glad that the honourable member has given me an opportunity to state and re-state the policy of Government in this matter. The policy of Government in this matter all along has been the gradual attainment of prohibition and not prohibition all at once. It may be true that prohibition is being tried in some of the British Indian Provinces. But we have not reached that stage. Honourable members are probably aware that for the gradual attainment of prohibition Government have appointed a Committee in 1098 consisting of some of the official and non-official members of this House and they prepared a scheme to be put into operation. This scheme was tried for about 10 to 12 years and the experience gained so far has shown that it has not been a success. Mr. C. O. Madhavan, my predecessor says in his administration report for

[Mr. M. P. Joseph.]

1111, that the experiment has been a thorough failure. One of the measures discussed by the Committee was that the working hours of toddy shops should be reduced. Some time before 1098 the working hours were from 6 a. m. to 9 p. m. It was reduced to 8 p. m. Although there was reduction in the number of hours it was found that it had no effect on the drinking population. Several toddy and arrack shops had to be kept open even after 8 p. m. There were several requests from contractors and the public that toddy shops should be kept open after 8 p. m. The Excise Commissioner therefore thought that the experiment of shortening hours had no support from the drinking population. If licit liquor was not supplied they are sure to resort to illicit, bad stuff. That has been the effect where prohibition has been tried. My friend wants that the hours of sales should not be extended after 6 p. m. Most of the drinking population are labourers and what they drink mostly is toddy. Their daily activities will be over by about 6 or 7 p. m. Regular sale in toddy shops commences only after 6 or 7 p. m. I have visited some of the biggest toddy shops in Alleppey and other places and I found that the sale really commences by about 6 or 7 and lasts till 9 p. m. Once you permit people to drink, you must give them a fair opportunity to drink at their leisure hours and not when they work. Either you must prevent them from drinking at all or if you permit it give them a fair opportunity to drink. Toddy is not so bad as my friend Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar makes it to be. It is a food to the labourer. It is a food to the labourer as well as a stimulant. After a hard day's work in the hills or in the Kuttanad lakes I think nobody in this House will grudge the weak labourers having a cup of toddy.

MR. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Is the policy of Government temperance or prohibition?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: Prohibition by gradual stages. My friend Mr. Nadar has been telling us that by drinking the drinker very often commits public nuisance, that the Police Officers drink, and all that sort of thing. These are all exaggerations. I know Travancore and I have gone through most of the places and I know, as a matter of fact, that people in Travancore are sober and sober-minded. The drink evil is not so bad in Travancore as it is in other parts of India. Amongst Mussalmans there is a religious precept that they should not drink. The Hindu population are averse to drink. Then as to the Christian population, I can assure the House that it has not become an evil among that Community. The resolution is a very short one. I find from the agenda that there is a bigger resolution about prohibition. I would not therefore take up more of your time over this resolution now. When the other resolution is taken up for consideration I will deal with the question of prohibition at length. All that I say is that if we allow the labourers to drink we must allow them a fair opportunity. This can be afforded only after 6 or 7 p. m. I am therefore against the reduction of hours of sale. My friend has been telling us that Mr. C. O. Madhavan had recommended the extension of the period from 8 p. m. to 9 p. m. and he criticised the Government for

having accepted the recommendation. The criticism was not fair, as it was on the specific following recommendation of the Head of the Department, supported by facts that the Government chose to pass its orders.

"It has been found by practical experience that 8 p. m. is too early an hour to close the sales, since sales in most shops generally begin only after 6 p. m. and since the people who resort to shops do so only after their daily activities are over. It is therefore desirable to change the hour to 9 p. m."

The Excise Committee which went into the question at length says as follows about the change of hours :

"As a matter of fact regular sales especially in arrack shops hardly ever commence before evening. With regard to the closing hour, it was suggested that in towns the closing hour should be fixed at 7 p. m. The Excise Commissioner pointed out that it was in towns that much difficulty was experienced in enforcing even the present time limit of 8 p. m. Conditions of life in a town were varied and many people usually were able to leave off work and get home not earlier than 8 or 8—30 p. m. with the result that shop keepers when taxed with the breach of the rule complained of the pressure brought to bear upon them by many persons, who, from their local status and influence, it was not possible for the shopkeepers to disoblige without bringing upon themselves a good deal of trouble."

Although it was suggested to them that the working hours should be reduced the suggestion was not accepted. The matter was gone into by the Committee at great length and they were decidedly of opinion that the shops should be kept open till 8 p. m.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR : What is the scheme of Government in bringing about prohibition?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : One of the measures adopted was the reduction in the number of shops. Then there was the experiment of local option. Then, there was the reduction in the issue strength of arrack. These measures were all tried and after years experience it was found that the measures attempted proved to be a thorough failure.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR : May I know whether there is any scheme at present?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : At present there is no scheme.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : May I know what the member means by 'thorough failure'. Were not Government able to prevent illicit sale of arrack?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : Government were not able to stop all illicit distillation and manufacture of arrack.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know whether the type of toddy kept in the arrack shop is good to the health?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : Well, I may say this. I do not know the name of the Doctor but I have read in a Medical Journal that bulk for bulk toddy contains more vitamins than milk and that it is a food which is beneficial to labourers.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know whether this is the kind of toddy kept in the arrack shops?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : Yes.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI : Is there no substitute for toddy?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : My points are these. The Excise Committee considered this question at length and found it necessary to keep open the shops till 8 p. m. My predecessor Mr. C. O. Madhavan, with his several years of experience in this department, has stated that even 8 p. m. is too early an hour for closing the shops. Total and immediate prohibition is not, at present, the policy of Government.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED : വില്ലന വുമണിവരെ കുറയ്ക്കതോ?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : By experience it was found that it was not possible.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : May I know whether the honourable member has anything to suggest in the way of prohibition?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : Nothing at all.

MR. P. C. ADICHAN : സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു സംസാരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകൾ കള്ളു നല്ലതാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഇവിടെയിരിക്കുന്ന പലരും ചിരിക്കുന്നുവെങ്കിലും, സാധുക്കളായ കൂലിവേലക്കാരുടെ കരുണയുള്ളവരുടെ ഹൃദയംതകരുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. വൈകിട്ട് ൯ മണിക്ക് മദ്യപ്പാപ്പ അടയ്ക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതു് നമ്മളിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ദിനപ്രതികൂലവേലചെയ്യുന്നവർ അവർക്കു കിട്ടുന്ന ഊമമായ കൂലി മദ്യപ്പാപ്പിൽ കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ തങ്ങളുടെ വീട്ടിലുള്ള കുഞ്ഞുകുട്ടികൾക്കു പയോഗയോഗ്യമാകത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ വീട്ടിൽ എത്തിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നു. കൂടാതെ സാധാരണ കൂലിവേലക്കാരായ പാവങ്ങൾക്ക് കിട്ടുന്നതു ചീനിവെള്ളവും, പഴംകഞ്ഞിവെള്ളവും ചേർത്ത കള്ളാണ്. ഇതു രുചിയിൽ കിട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ വിശ്വസ്യവെന്നു അവർ തിരിച്ചറിയുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ കുടിച്ചുപോകുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ അടുക്കളകളിൽ ഇവരെ കളുപ്പിച്ച് ചകു പിടിച്ചുപറിക്കാൻ പാപ്പകാക്ക് സാധിക്കയില്ല.

സാമ്പത്തികവശത്തുകൂടെനോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഞാൻ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട കുറവർ സമുദായത്തിലെ അനവധി ഉദാഹരണങ്ങൾ അറിയുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഇന്നു കാണുന്ന നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ഈ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത്തിൽ ആക്കിത്തീർത്ത ശ്രീമാർത്താണ്ഡവർമ്മ മഹാരാജാവു് എട്ടുവീട്ടിൽപിള്ളമാരെ യേപ്പെട്ടു ഉളിച്ചു റെടിപ്പോയവഴി കൊല്ലത്തുനിന്നും വടക്കോട്ടു വഞ്ചിവഴി

പോകയും വലിയ മഴ നിമിത്തം സഹിക്കവയ്യാത്ത തണുപ്പിനാൽ അടുത്തുള്ള കരയിൽ ഇറങ്ങുകയും കക്കാ നീറിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ഒരു കുറവൻ രാത്രിസമയം മുഴുവൻ തിരുമനസ്സിന് തീ കത്തിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും അതാൽ സന്തോഷിച്ച് ൧൦൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ആ കായൽ വാരത്തു കരം ഒഴിവാക്കി അദ്ദേഹം വാമുക്കനായ സമയം കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തത് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ നല്ലതാണെന്ന് മനസ്സിലാക്കത്തക്കപറഞ്ഞ ആ 'കള്ള' കുടിച്ചതുതാലും കടത്തിൽ പെടുപോയിരുന്നു ഓക്കുമ്പോൾ ആരുടെ ഹൃദയം ആണ് തകരാത്തത്.

അതുപോലെ തന്നെ കൊട്ടാരക്കര കച്ചേരിയും പള്ളിക്കൂടവും നില്ക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലം ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള ൧൩ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലവും ൧൨ പറ നിലവും ഒരു കുറവന്റെ വകയായിരുന്നത് കള്ളുകുടി നശിച്ചതാണെന്നു പറയുന്നത് പച്ചപരമാത്മമാണ്. പ്രസ്തുത താലൂക്കിൽ തന്നെ തലച്ചിറയ്ക്കടുത്ത് പൊടിയാട്ടുവിള എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു ൧൦൦ പറ നിലത്തിന്റെ ഉടമസ്ഥനായ കുറവൻ ഇന്ന് തെണ്ടി നടക്കുന്നതും കള്ളുകുടിക്കൊണ്ടല്ലേ? ജഗദീശ്വര! പാവങ്ങളുടെ വാരിൽ മണ്ണടക്കുന്ന കള്ളുതാലും കുറവൻ സമുദായമെന്നല്ല മിക്ക സമുദായത്തേയും നശിപ്പിച്ചുവെന്നു ചുരുക്കത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതിൽ കള്ളം ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ ഇല്ല. അതിനാൽ വൈകിട്ട് ൯ മണിയെന്നുള്ളത് ൩ മണിയാക്കുന്നതുമൂലം സാധുക്കളെ പലപിടത്തിൽ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും പരമ വല്ലഭനും നല്ല കള്ളങ്കിലും കുടിക്കുവാൻ സഹായിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു കാണ്ടു ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. KUMARAN VAIDYAN. സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ആനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. വൈകുന്നേരം ആറുമണിക്കു കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകൾ പൂട്ടണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായക്കാരനാണ് ഞാൻ. കള്ളു കുടിക്കുന്നത് നല്ലതാണെന്നു അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളതായി തോന്നുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ പുരാതിനമായ ആയുർവേദശാസ്ത്രം നമ്മെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിപ്രകാരമാണ്. അതായതു "മദ്യവിശ്രയസന്ധാതാ ഭാഗവതാനി നാചരേൽ" എന്നാണ്.

അതുകൊണ്ട് കള്ളുകുടി നല്ലതാണെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാൻ ഒരിക്കലും അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നില്ല. മദ്യവർജ്ജനംകൊണ്ട് ഏന്റെ സമുദായത്തിനു വളരെ ഭോഷമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും രാജ്യത്തിനു പൊതുവെ ഗുണമാണുള്ളത്. അനേകലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ സൽഗുണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഏന്റെ സമുദായത്തിലെ ഏതാനും വ്യക്തികൾക്കു ഭോഷം വന്നാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. അതിനാൽ വൈകുന്നേരം ആറുമണിക്കുമേൽ കള്ളുഷാപ്പ് തുറന്നു വയ്ക്കാതിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഏന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED. സർ, ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ മി. നാരായണപ്പെരുമാൾനാടാർ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ തത്വത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. കള്ളുകുടി എത്രതന്നെ നല്ലതാണെന്ന് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പറഞ്ഞാലും, ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ചിന്തിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാ ആളുകളും കള്ളുകുടി വർജ്ജമാണെന്നതന്നെ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇവിടത്തെ ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഗവണ്മെന്റുതന്നെയും മദ്യപാനനിരത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായക്കാരാണെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളത്. (മി കൈനിക്കര പത്മനാഭപിള്ള ഹീയർ, ഹീയർ.) മദ്യപാനത്തിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിരുചി കുറേയ്ക്കു കുറച്ചു അവരെ ഇതിൽനിന്നും മോചിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെന്റും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഒരുപോലെ ആരാഞ്ഞുവരികയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നത്. “പ്രൊഹിബിഷൻ” ഉടനടി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയില്ലെങ്കിലും ഏതാണ്ടു കുറെക്കാലംകൊണ്ടു അതിന്റെ ഫലം താരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വരുത്തുകയില്ലാത്തതിൽ, ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കഷ്ടിക്കുന്നതിനു ചില തടസ്സങ്ങൾ വരുത്തുക എന്നുള്ള നയം സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് സ്വീകരിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ സഭയിൽ ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് “പ്രൊഹിബിഷൻ”നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങളെല്ലാം പ്രസ്സ് ചെയ്യാതായിട്ടുള്ളത്. “പ്രൊഹിബിഷൻ” സാധ്യമാല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് കള്ളുകുടിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പറയുന്നത്. കള്ളുകുടിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യം കുറേയ്ക്കു കുറേയ്ക്കായി കുറച്ചുകൊണ്ടു വന്നാൽ കാലക്രമത്തിൽ പ്രൊഹിബിഷൻ ഇവിടെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താം. അല്ലാതെ കള്ളുകുടി കൂടുതലായി അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള വാദത്തോടു യോജിക്കുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതിനാൽ കള്ളുകുടി കുറച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായിട്ടുള്ള ഈ സമയനിർദ്ദേശത്തെ സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്നും, ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ജനങ്ങളോടു് സഹകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നുമുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു കൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ മൂലതത്വത്തോടു യോജിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : സർ, മി. നാരായണപ്പെരുമാൾ നാടാർടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. മദ്യവർജ്ജനകാൽപ്പരിപാടി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റു പറഞ്ഞുകേൾക്കാറുള്ള എല്ലാ വാദങ്ങൾക്കും പുറമെ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് മെമ്പർ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പറഞ്ഞ തരത്തിൽകൂടി ഒരു വാദം കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികവശത്തെക്കു

റിപ്പോ, ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു പദ്ധതി അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നതിലുള്ള വൈഷമ്യങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചോ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പരിപൂർണ്ണമദ്യവഞ്ചനയത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യകത ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു ബോധ്യമാകും. മദ്യത്തിന്റെ ഇണങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും, തന്മൂലം വരുന്ന ആരോഗ്യപരമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെക്കുറിച്ചും, പരമ്പരസിദ്ധമായ വൈദ്യശാസ്ത്രങ്ങളുടെ അസ്ഥിവാതത്തെ അടിച്ചുടച്ചും അനുഭവത്തെയും അനുമാനത്തെയും അതിലംഘിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും, എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പറഞ്ഞത് പരിതാപകരമായ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അന്ധതയ്ക്ക് മകുടോദാഹരണമാണ്.

മദ്യപാനം ചെയ്യാത്ത സമുദായങ്ങൾ ബ്രാഹ്മണസമുദായവും മുഹമ്മദീയസമുദായവും ആണ്. ഇവിടെ മദ്യപാനം ചെയ്യുന്നവർ കൃസ്ത്യാനികൾ, ഈഴവർ, നായന്മാർ മുതലായ സമുദായക്കാരാകുന്നു. ബ്രാഹ്മണനോ, കൃസ്ത്യനോ, ഈഴവനോ ആരാണ് ആരോഗ്യത്തിൽ മുന്നിട്ടുനില്ക്കുന്നതെന്ന് ഒരു വെല്ലുവിളിയോടുകൂടി എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു മുസ്ലിമിന്റെയൊ, ഒരു ബ്രാഹ്മണന്റെയൊ ആരോഗ്യം സാമാന്യമായി എടുത്തുപറഞ്ഞാൽ ഒരു കൃസ്ത്യാനിക്കൊ, ഈഴവനൊ ഇല്ല. ആരോഗ്യത്തെ വളരെ വളരെ അധഃപതിപ്പിക്കുന്ന മദ്യപാനം ആരോഗ്യകരമാണെന്നുള്ള ഒരു ട്രഷ് പ്രചരണം നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. നൂറു-ൽ മദ്യവർജ്ജനപ്രമേയം മി: മാധവവർമ്മർ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ നിയമസഭയിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച് വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നപ്പോൾ അന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ തലകുലക്കി സമ്മതിച്ചു, മദ്യപാനം ആരോഗ്യഹാനികരമേയുള്ളൂ. നൂറു-ൽ അതായത് ൧൦൦ കൊല്ലം മുൻപ് ആരോഗ്യത്തിന് ഹാനികരമായിരുന്ന മദ്യം ൧൦൦൦-ൽ ആരോഗ്യകരമായതെങ്ങിനെ എന്ന് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു.

ഇനി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് പാളിസി മദ്യവർജ്ജനമാണെന്നു പറയുന്നു.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : മെമ്പർക്ക് ഷാപ്പ് കാൺട്രാക്ടറുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : വാദമുഖത്തിനുവേണ്ടി എനിക്ക് ഷാപ്പ് കാൺട്രാക്ടറുണ്ടെന്ന് സമ്മതിച്ചാൽതന്നെയും അതുകൊണ്ട് എന്തു ദോഷമാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നില്ല. ഞാൻ എന്നോട് ചോദ്യംചോദിച്ച മെമ്പറുപോലെ ഒരു കൺട്രാക്ടറല്ല. കൺട്രാക്ടറായിരിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നുമില്ല.

ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ നയം മദ്യവർജ്ജനകാര്യപരിപാടി നടപ്പിലാക്കുകയാണെന്ന് പറയുന്നതു പലപ്പോഴും ഞാൻ കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ എങ്ങിനെയാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ മദ്യവർജ്ജനകാര്യപരിപാടി നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നത് എന്നു ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണം കുറച്ച് മദ്യപാനാസക്തി ജനങ്ങളിൽ കുറച്ച് മദ്യപാനം നിറുത്തുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. എന്നു-ൽ ഈ നയം ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചങ്ങനാശേരിയിൽ പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരികയും ചെയ്തു. അന്നു ഭയങ്കരമായ രെഴിമതിയാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ചെയ്തതു്. എന്നു ധ ൦ ൦ തെങ്ങു ചെത്താൻ കൊടുത്തിരുന്നത് ന്റെ-ൽ അതു് ൧൦൧ തെങ്ങു ആക്കി. ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണം കുറച്ച് വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം കൂട്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് മദ്യവർജ്ജനപരിപാടി നടത്തുന്നു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ എന്താണു് അതിന്നർത്ഥം. ഒരു തെങ്ങിൽനിന്നു് ഒരു പാ കള്ളുകിട്ടുമെങ്കിൽ ൧൦൧ തെങ്ങിൽനിന്നും ൧൦൧ പാ കള്ളു കിട്ടുന്നു ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുള്ള പ്രയോജനം എന്താണെന്നു് ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി അതിന്റെ മറുവശം കൂടി നോക്കാം. ഇതു് തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ഒരു ആഹാരപദാർത്ഥമാണു് എന്നാണു് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടതു്. ഇതിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികവശത്തെപ്പറ്റി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ആലോചിക്കണം. എന്തൊരു തൊഴിലാളിയും കാലത്തുമുതൽ അന്തിവരെ വേലയെടുത്താൽ അവനു കിട്ടുന്നത് അഞ്ചോ ആറോ ചക്രമാണു്. കള്ളുവേണമെങ്കിൽ— അതും നല്ല കള്ളുവേണമെങ്കിൽ— രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ ചക്രം കള്ളുഷാപ്പിൽ കൊടുക്കണം. ൧ ചക്രം കൂടി കിട്ടുന്നവർ നചക്രം കൊടുത്തു ഒരു വിഷദ്രവ്യം വാങ്ങിക്കുടിച്ചിട്ടു് ശേഷിച്ച ൨ ചക്രവും കൊണ്ടാണു് വീട്ടിൽ പോകുന്നതു്. ആ തൊഴിലാളി, അവന്റെ ഭാര്യ, രണ്ടുമൂന്നു കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങൾ ഇവരെല്ലാം ൩൨ കൊച്ചു കാത്തുകൊണ്ടു ജീവിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതു പരാത്പകരമായ ഒരു സ്ഥിതിയാണു്. ഇതാണു് മദ്യപാനം കൊണ്ടു ഒരു തൊഴിലാളിക്കു വരുന്ന സാമ്പത്തികസ്ഥിതി.

മദ്യവർജ്ജനകാര്യപരിപാടി അംഗീകരിച്ചാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വിഷമമുണ്ടെന്നു് എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. ൧൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപായാണു് കള്ളുഷാപ്പിനത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ വരവു്. ൧൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് വരുവുണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ ആകപ്പോഴെ എത്രലക്ഷം രൂപാ കള്ളുകുടിക്കുന്നതിനായി ചിലവാക്കുന്നു എന്നു നോക്കണം. ഷാപ്പുകൾ ട്രാക്റ്റർമാർ ഒരു ലാഭം എടുക്കുന്നു. ഷാപ്പുകൾ ട്രാക്റ്റർ

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നാരുടെ അടുക്കൽനിന്നും ആദായം എടുക്കുന്നത് ആരാണെന്ന് നമുക്കറിയാം. ഇതെല്ലാം കഴിഞ്ഞു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് ൧൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപ കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ ചുരുങ്ങിയപക്ഷം ഒരു ൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ കള്ള ചില വായിരിക്കണം. മൂക്കാൽ ലക്ഷത്തോളമുള്ള ബ്രാഹ്മണർ കള്ള കുടിക്കുന്നില്ല ൪ ലക്ഷത്തേളംവരുന്ന മുഹമ്മദീയർ കള്ള കുടിക്കുന്നില്ല നായന്മാരിൽ ഒരു ഗണ്യമായ വിഭാഗം കള്ള കുടിക്കുന്നവരല്ല. ഈവരിൽ കുറേപ്പേർ കള്ള കുടിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. മറ്റു ചില സമുദായത്തിലെ ചിലരും കള്ള കുടിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ കള്ള കുടിക്കുന്നവരാര്? എല്ലാ സമുദായത്തിലേയും ഏതാനും ചില വേലക്കാരാകുന്നു ൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ കള്ള കുടിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ ൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ ആദായം പൊട്ടുന്നനവെ നിരത്തിയാൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് വിഷമമുണ്ടാകുമെന്ന് എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിയും. മദ്യവർജ്ജനകാര്യപരിപാടിയിലൂടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ നയമെന്ന് പറയുകയും അതിനു ആവശ്യമുള്ള സംഗതികൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്ത ഒരു പ്രായോഗികപദ്ധതി കണ്ടുവന്നു എട്ടോ പത്തോ പതിനഞ്ചോ വേണമെങ്കിൽ ഇരുപത്തിയഞ്ചോ കൊല്ലംകൊണ്ട് മദ്യവർജ്ജനം പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി സാധിക്കുമെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഉറപ്പിച്ച് പറയേണ്ടതിനപകരം വാഗ്ദാനങ്ങൾ കടന്നുകയറ്റി മദ്യത്തിന്റെ ഗുണങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയാണ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ചെയ്തത്. അതു ഏതായാലും കുറെ സാഹസമായിപ്പോയി.

മദ്യവർജ്ജനപരിപാടി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ചില തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു വിഷമമുണ്ടെന്നതിക്കുറിയും. ഏകിലും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ രക്ഷയെ മുൻനിർത്തി അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും ഇരുന്നിട്ടുള്ള ആളാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ക്രിമിനൽ കേസുകൾ പലതിനും കാരണം കള്ള കുടിയായിരുന്നു കാണാം. എക്സൈസ് റവന്യൂ ഏവിയുടെയും കൂടുതലുണ്ടോ അവിടെയെല്ലാം ക്രിമിനൽ കേസുകളും കൂടുതലുണ്ട്.

ഇങ്ങനെ സാമ്പാർഗ്ഗികമായും സമ്പത്തികമായും ആരോഗ്യപരമായും രാജ്യത്തിനു ഉപദ്രവത്തെ ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യത്തെ അഡ്വക്കേറ്റർ ചെയ്യാതെ ശരിയായ ഒരു പദ്ധതി അംഗീകരിച്ചു മദ്യവർജ്ജനം നടപ്പിൽവരുത്താനുള്ള ഒരു മഹാമനസ്സു കമ്മീഷണർക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്നത് കൊള്ളാമെന്നഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ട് ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, all that Mr. Nadar wants by means of this resolution is that the sale of liquor should be stopped at 6 P. M. instead of at 9 P. M. as at present. I should think it a blessing even if the department succeeded or atleast earnestly tried to succeed in stopping the sale of liquor even after 9 P. M. As one honourable member pointed out, although the rules prevent the sale of liquor after 9 P. M. it is very seldom that that rule is followed or even attempted to be enforced by the department. I do not think that the department has ever tried earnestly to stop it; in fact throughout the State liquor is being allowed to be sold all night long. It has always been the policy of the department to show all manner of indulgence to contractors and to give them every facility to escape from the rules. Therefore, my point is that even if the department would seriously and honestly try to enforce the present rules, it should be a great blessing to the country. Therefore, when Mr. Nadar was speaking on this resolution I was really thinking that the department would immediately accept it because whether the rule has it at 9 P. M. or 6 P. M. it is all the same to them since for the department these rules are not intended to be followed.

Now Sir, after hearing the Excise Commissioner's speech on this resolution I have come to the firm conclusion that we have to support the resolution. I am not prepared to grant that the government have honestly tried any prohibition campaign in Travancore. The department has been speaking of local option, reduction of the number of liquor shops and so on. I can confidently say that none of these things was ever seriously tried. Local option was tried in Changanacherry. First of all toddy did not come under the scheme and was sold freely; the attempt was to prohibit the consumption of foreign liquor.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: Arrack also.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes. What about toddy? That is the one form of liquor used by the poor man in the country. As a matter of fact even if there be a provision enabling, or for that matter encouraging, all the rich men in the country to drink and ruin themselves, personally, I won't consider it so objectionable. We are most concerned with the poor man, the labourer getting daily 4 chs. or so, who ruins not only himself but also his family on account of this drink evil. Local option proved a failure because for one arrack shop that disappeared half a dozen toddy shops spring up in the locality. When some form of liquor is allowed to be sold, no scheme of prohibition can succeed. Further, in Changanacherry, as soon as the sale of foreign liquor and arrack was prohibited every soda shop automatically got itself converted into a liquor shop and the department failed miserably in effectively stopping the sale of foreign liquor or arrack in the Changanacherry town. In fact it was never attempted seriously or honestly.

The Excise Commissioner has told us about reducing the number of shops. I would have thanked him if only he had prevented the system of sub-shops. What is the meaning of reducing one shop and allowing

each shop to have five or six sub-shops. Now he says that they have made one or two attempts and failed and that they really do not know now what do. When Government honestly tell us that there is no suggestion to offer, no more scheme to try, the only course open to us is to accept Mr. Nadar's proposal and to try that, although we may not be quite sure that that would lead to practical success. Mr. Nadar's suggestion may be impracticable. But why not the Government come forward with something more practical? Government are not able to make any concrete suggestion as far as we can gather from the answer by the Government member. We are therefore forced to accept Mr. Nadar's proposal. In the circumstances I would request the Excise Commissioner to consent to the reduction of hours of sale and to take particular care to see that the rules are enforced; because unless rules are enforced there would be no purpose served in our enacting even the best of rules.

With these words I strongly support the resolution.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Sir, this is a very interesting resolution. This is not the first time that this subject comes before the legislature. Sir, I have always been supporting these resolutions for temperance and prohibition. On a previous occasion when a question of temperance came up before the old Legislative Council I supported the resolution. But at the same time I asked one of the members, who was present and who supported the resolution honestly to tell me whether his own action was consistent with the speech that he made in the Council. Sir, I have found that there is not much use in our making speeches here and carrying such resolutions. Conditions are not going to improve by that. We must be sincere and true to our words. There must be personal example also. Sir, my friend Mr. Adichen suggested that the toddy sold must be pure and my friend Mr. Narayanan wanted that greater quantity just enough for appeasing hunger or thirst of the individuals must be sold. Sir, that is our attitude in the matter. There is no doubt that the resolution and our speeches are couched in good language. There is no use in our blaming any individual or community. Are we true to our words? Let us first of all consider that. Let us first of all be pure. Let us advise our friends to refrain from drinking. There is no use in our theorising here. Without wasting our energy and time here let us do honest propaganda.

So far as the Government are concerned it is their duty to maintain their stability for which they require finances; it is equally their duty to see that the health of the citizens are not impaired. As non-official members it is our duty to organize village units, not political organizations, and do useful work in this harmless direction of appealing to the people not to drink.

With these words I resume my seat.

MR. M.P. JOSEPH. My friend Mr. Padmanabha Pillai was telling us that the Excise department never seriously attempted prohibition although they declared that the gradual attainment of prohibition is their policy. I would only read to the honourable member the report of my predecessor Mr. Madhavan. This is what he says:—

"All the above measures have been tried in Travancore pursuant to the declared policy of the Government as set forth above; but experience gained so far from the working of the prohibition measures does not infuse in me any hope for the ultimate fulfilment of the declared policy. For instance I shall take up the results of the working of one of the measures *i. e.*, the reduction in the issue strength of arrack. The issue strength of arrack was 20⁸ U. P. and 25⁹ U. P. for a long time. It was reduced to 25⁸ U. P. and 30⁹ U. P. which again underwent further reduction to 30⁸ U. P. and 35⁹ U. P. with effect from 1106 and 1107 contract in which stage it stood in the year under report. Even since then the fall in the consumption of arrack was cataclysmic and beyond measure and endurance. Of course the setting in of the economic depression was responsible in a great measure for the steep decrease. But that is not the only cause. The supply of weak arrack had an important bearing on the drop in the consumption of illicit arrack. Habits and tastes long formed and handed down from generation to generation are most impervious to change. The craving for strong alcoholic beverages running in the veins of the drinking population of Travancore has certainly put up a desperate fight with the innovations introduced in furtherance of prohibition. The lie of the country and the abundance of materials for the production of illicit arrack afford ample facilities and offer sufficient attractions for the growth of boot-legging. Hence there is nothing wrong in concluding that the weak issue strength has a large part to play in progressively lowering the consumption of licit arrack by its replacement by illicit arrack. As long as the lower strength is unable to further the cause of prohibition, it has become necessary to consider in the interests of Government revenue and the morale of the people whether it should be maintained any longer. Government have been therefore obliged to take up the question of the issue strength of arrack for their serious consideration in regard to future contracts

Similarly the practice of periodical reduction in the number of shops has also been proved to be quite ineffectual in furthering the object prompting its introduction. In accordance with the proposals of the Excise Committee it has been the policy of this Government to make a reduction of 5 per cent in the existing number of shops at the commencement of every contract. But the people of the localities in which toddy shops are abolished have been complaining of such abolition and petitions have been received to open fresh shops in such places. Therefore the continuance of the above practice is a matter which should engage the serious attention of the Government. On the demand of the people of the municipal town of Changanacherry the prohibition of vent of arrack in the locality was introduced with effect from the biennium of 1104 and 1105 and the same has been continuing till the close of the year under report. One sad experience gained at the working of prohibition in the said area is the lamentable apathy of the people of the place in the detection of Abkari offences. No tangible co-operation was received from the public by the officers of the department. Therefore, I have no hesitation to pronounce the experiment as a complete failure.

The above circumstances warrant an entire re-examination of the measures now followed by Government as factors contributing to the ultimate attainment of the declared policy of Government. The abkari policy of this Government need not be controlled by ineffectual cants as those elucidated above have proved to be."

This is the report of an officer who was the head of the department for more than 8 years. This is his experience. It cannot be said that the Excise department has not been earnestly putting these measures into effect; they have tried; but they failed. Prohibition was tried in some of the advanced countries in the West, Europe and America. America tried prohibits for 19 years and failed. Norway and Sweden tried and failed. No country in Europe, has prohibition now. In British India prohibition is being tried in a few districts. It is too early to say whether it is going to be a success or failure. I have seen reports that it is a failure. What I submit is that merely because there is prohibition in British India, that is no reason why we should adopt it here also. No doubt some crimes are committed by people while they are drunk. But that is not common. More murders are committed because of family disputes, personal hatred, jealousy and all the rest of it, than due to drink. It is a fact that there were murders committed in Meenachil and Todupuzha by drunken men. But that does not mean that all murders in Travancore are due to drink. As I said, several offences are committed due to causes other than drink.

My friend Mr. Narayanan was telling us that drink is certainly an evil and that it undermines the health of the people. But I would read to you what I find in a British Medical Journal. The British Medical Association recently appointed a committee to ascertain the effect of drink on the health and longevity of human beings. This is the report.

"Nothing is more entertaining than a study of the statements made by our prohibitionist friends on the 'appallingly harmful effects of alcohol on the human constitution.'" For example it is impressed upon us that the total abstainer has a far longer expectation of life than the drunkard or even the moderate drinker.

What are the facts? The British Medical Association appointed recently a committee to ascertain the average age of the different categories of drinkers and the conclusions drawn from 4,324 deaths divided into five categories, gave the following interesting averages attained by each :—

	Years.	Days.
Total abstainers	51	22
Habitual temperate drinkers	63	13
Careless drinkers	59	67
Free drinkers	57	59
Decidedly intemperate drinkers	51	23

PRESIDENT : They have come to the conclusion that the average age of the death of the moderate drinker is 58 or so while such age of death in the case of the total abstainer is 45 or so. Is it not? (Laughter)

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : (Reads)

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : What does the member read from? Is it from an advertisement?

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MR. M. P. JOSEPH: No. Sir, from Times of India.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Is it not an advertisement for Scotch Whisky? (*Laughter*)

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: No. Sir. (*Reads*)

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: May I know Sir, whether that is the theory accepted by the Government?

PRESIDENT: That is part of his argument.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: To which country do those statistics relate?

PRESIDENT: England.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: What are the statistics so far as India is concerned? That is what we want.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Are there any statistics available with reference to toddy which is available in Travancore?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: All that I submit is that it is not quite right to say that those who drink die early. What about English men and Scotch men? They live much longer than we in India. (*Laughter*)

I am glad Sir, that the resolution before the House does not go far and stops with the reduction of the number of hours of sale. But as I have already observed, that has been tried and found a hopeless failure.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: In view of the statement in the departmental report by Mr. Madhavan that the scheme proved a failure because of want of co-operation from the public, may I put it to the present Excise Commissioner whether it would not be worth another trial especially in view of the assurance of co-operation of the representative of the people here.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: Prohibition was tried in America for 19 years. It proved a failure.

MR. JEBAMONY NADAR: Was the scheme tried in South Travancore?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: The reduction of the number of shops was tried everywhere in Travancore; in South Travancore also.

With these words I oppose the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and carried.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"This Assembly recommends that all Kuthakapattoms of tanks and tank beds in the area commanded by the Kodayar Project, should be cancelled forthwith".

Sir, this Kuthakapattom is a source of revenue to the Government. It may be justifiable in some years; it may not be justifiable in others. I am not concerned with that question now. It is now an admitted

fact that the Kodayar Reservoir is not able to irrigate all the lands which it has to serve, and it has been the policy of the Government in recent years to improve and maintain and repair irrigation tanks in South Travancore. During the last few years Government have provided each year Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 for this purpose; I congratulate the Government for that and I am grateful to them. Now, Sir, there are very many tanks out of the area irrigated by the Kodayar Project, which are subject to Kuthagapattom. If such Kuthagapattom is cancelled forthwith these tanks also would be available for irrigating lands coming under the Kodayar Project. For example, the "Perumal Kulam" in Neendakara (A) Pakuthy will be of immense benefit to ryots provided the Kuthagapattom is cancelled and the tank is restored. Another fact about these tank beds is that they can serve as excellent pastures for cattle. Moreover, they serve as grazing grounds for cattle. For these reasons I move this resolution.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : Sir, I second the resolution moved by Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar. In this connection I wish to place before Government the importance of tanks and tank beds not only in the area commanded by the Kodayar project but throughout Travancore. There are certain tanks near the sea side which the Engineers may say can be disposed of as they lie near the tail ends of channels. The mover of the resolution has brought to the notice of the Assembly the importance of such areas for rearing of cattle. Sir, the price per acre is nearly Rs. 2,000 and a major portion of the area is used for cocoanut cultivation as such it is difficult to have grazing grounds and as such these areas may also be preserved for grazing purposes. With these words I second the resolution.

MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Sir, it is true that about 4 years back tank beds especially in the area commanded by the Kodayar project were partly given on registration and partly on Kuthagapattom. But when Government found that the Kodayar Project was not fulfilling the purpose expected of it, they have been restricting the kuthagapattom and now Government have ruled that there should be no registry of tank beds and if in any case kuthagapattom should be given, it should be given only under Government sanction. Thus even a cent of land to be given on kuthagapattom has to be brought to the notice of Government and the present policy of Government is not to give the land either on registry or on kuthagapattom. Ever since I took charge of the Department, I have been turning down recommendations of my subordinates for kuthagapattom of tank beds. The question of restoration of tanks is being taken up by Government and we have a scheme by which about 25,000 rupees a year should be set apart year to year for the restoration of these tanks. I may point out to the House that by virtue of a condition in the lease of lands Government can terminate a lease at any time before the expiry of the period mentioned in it. So I assure the House that as we take up tanks for restoration the leases in respect of them will be terminated and work will be proceeded with. There is no use in stopping at once all kuthagapattoms. After all there are not many kuthagapattoms.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know the total area given under kuthagapattom?

MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO : I am sure it is not more than 100 or 110 acres. On my assurance that Government have taken up the question of the restoration of tanks and that the kuthagapattoms will be terminated in respect of such tanks, in proper time I trust that Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar will withdraw his resolution.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : In view of the assurance given by the Land Revenue Commissioner I withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT : Mr. K. Narayanaperumal Nadar.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Sir, I do not move the following resolution.

"This Assembly recommends to Government to abolish all today, arrack, opium and ganja shops".

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : In regard to the resolution

"This Assembly recommends to Government to feed Muttom with pure drinking water, as early as possible".

Sir, I understand that Government are pleased to take the necessary steps for supplying water to Muttom. I therefore do not move the resolution.

PRESIDENT : Government have already arranged to start a fairly big scheme for the supply of water at Muttom and honourable members will have opportunity to deal with it later on.

The resolution was not moved.

PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :

"This Assembly recommends to Government that a separate Maramat Department be re-established forthwith."

Sir, the Maramat Department was confining its activities mainly to the renovation and reconstruction of Sirkar Temples in the State. A senior experienced Hindu Executive Engineer used to be appointed in sole charge of this Department, till it was abolished as a separate entity and amalgamated with the Public Works Department on the 10th Chingom 1113. Sir, the fact that out of the total grant of Rs. 3,05,500 for Devaswom Maramat works in the year 1111 the actual expenditure incurred during the year for the purpose amounted to Rs. 2,93,360 is a sure index of the deep interest shown by the Department in the speedy execution of the works for which there was provision in the respective budgets from year to year. But Sir, as a result of the amalgamation more than 50 per cent of the grant is allowed to lapse during the end of the year as the Public Works Department are attending to the Devaswom Maramat works in addition to their other multifarious duties. The amalgamation of the Maramat Department, I am constrained to observe, was really a move in

the wrong direction and the evil results thereof are far-reaching. The change has been a matter of deep concern to the Hindu public of the State. Repeated representations have been made both from in and outside this House, urging upon the attention of Government the necessity for the early re-establishment of the Maramat Department. I know, as a matter of fact that several resolutions have been passed at public meetings praying for the re-establishment of the Maramat Department and no orders have yet been passed in the matter. From the answer given to my interpellation No. 102 by the Chief Engineer yesterday I was able to understand that about Rs. 16,770 was the saving as a result of the amalgamation during the year 1113. Sir, I know that this is not exactly the real state of affairs, because page 202 of the budget of the current year shows that another amount of Rs. 8,400 was also allotted for the salary of a supernumerary executive engineer due to the amalgamation of the Maramat Department. So, the saving effected as a result of the amalgamation of the Maramat Department with the Public Works Department is not at all substantial to justify the amalgamation. This unnecessary change has resulted in a step-motherly treatment being given by the P. W. D. to the works connected with Sirkar Devaswoms. Sir, the renovation and reconstruction works in the Sirkar temples require a great amount of religious belief and shastraic knowledge besides the ordinary engineering skill for their successful completion.

PRESIDENT: I take it Mr. Truscott that there is at present no officer who does not profess the Hindu faith who is allowed to go near the temples.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: No, Sir. The whole of the Maramat staff that Mr. Velayudhan Pillai is speaking of are directly employed on the Maramat works and they are all Hindus.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It is not quite right. In order to see that all the works for which there is budget provision are executed in the year there must be some person exclusively interested in the matter.

PRESIDENT: Presumably, the Devaswom Commissioner will be the person interested.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: But he is helpless. The estimates have to be prepared and the works have to be pushed through and for this there must be some person interested in the matter, other than the Devaswom Commissioner. Moreover, the supervision of the maramat works done in Hindu temples cannot be properly effectively made by the departmental head, many of the Division Officers and the Assistant Engineers according to the present arrangement.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: May I know from the member the names of such Officers?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Mr. I. C. Chacko and Mr. Thomas.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: Mr. Thomas has nothing whatever to do with the Public Works Department.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : But that was not so till recently. The Departmental head, one executive engineer and many of the assistant engineers who have no right even to enter the temple premises which are generally enclosed by high walls cannot exercise effective supervision of the maramat works. So, my submission is that at present the supervision is most ineffective and inefficient and there is leakage and waste of funds. It is therefore high time for the Government and the Department to see that a separate Maramat Department is re-established. Hence I commend my resolution for the unanimous acceptance of the House.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : In seconding the resolution so ably moved by Mr. Velayudhan Pillai I wish to say one or two words. I do not want to dilate on the conditions existing in the Maramat Department. I simply want to place before Government that there are certain impediments in the way of carrying out renovation and re-construction works in minor and petty temples and works of small character. So far as devaswom matters are concerned, I understand that there should first be a conference of the Chief Engineer and some other individuals which will have to pass the works and estimates. It is only afterwards that the works can be carried out. Such a procedure will lead to delay in the execution of the works which will be of an urgent nature and this will be another impediment in the hasty execution of such works.

My information is that major temples have been renovated but more minor temples in various parts of the contry lie hidden in the jungles. In certain instances, the identification of such temples is lost. So, it is highly necessary that a separate department should be maintained for the safety of these trust institutions.

During the last car festival at Suchindram, the axle of the car was broken and there was delay in replacing the same. The whole matter was with the P. W. D. The public had no voice. The Pidakars would have rectified the mistake easily if it were with a Thachu Asari as in olden days. I am illustrating the position that if the axil had been built according to Thatchu Sastra and examined by the officers who are competent to do it, the delay could not have happened. My suggestion is that the funds of the Devaswom Department must be placed under a separate Maramat Engineer; Maramat works could then be efficiently looked after. With these words, I support the resolution.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : Sir, Expenditure should not be taken as a criterion of good work and it should not be understood by the honourable Members of this House that the Marmath Department is not doing efficient work for it is doing so. Its responsibilities are great and varied. The strength of the Maramath establishment is the same as it was before the amalgamation with the P. W. Department. The only difference is that there is no separate departmental head for it. Instead of one executive Engineer assisted by several Circle Officers under him for looking after the works in the whole State, there are 5 Division Officers and their sub division officers who supervise the work of the

Circle officers a remark was made by one honourable Member that the Chief Engineer being a Christian cannot enter temples and supervise the works relating to it. That is perfectly true. But the Deputy Chief Engineer is a Hindu and he supervises the works. He has already done a considerable amount of inspections this year in regard to Maramath works.

The main point for consideration should be as to the manner in which the Maramath works are carried out. There is a Maramath Committee which scrutinises all estimates for works relating to Maramath Department. This committee includes the Devaswom Commissioner. Under the present arrangement Government gets better value for the money expended.

Yesterday, Mr. Velayudhan Pillai asked me details of contingent charges incurred for the Maramath Departmental works. These charges are advised by the Financial Department. I do not know the full details but these would include electrical charges, maintenance charges, telephone charges etc. and the increase over the previous year is probably accounted for by the cost of transfer of the various offices and papers consequent with the amalgamation.

After the first year of amalgamation of the department with the Public Work department, the Division Officers were asked to give their suggestions for improvement. Their suggestions are being received and considered. Some of their suggestions have already been put into operation. I trust Mr. Velayudhan Pillai will realise how the present constitution of the Maramath Department is working. Under these circumstances, I will ask the mover to withdraw the resolution.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know who sanctions the estimate for the construction of Maramath works?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : The Government.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : May I know who is supervising to the renovation of minor temples?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : The Division Officers and their assistants in charge of respective divisions.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Are the Assistant Engineers supervising Maramath works in their respective divisions?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : Yes.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Then, may I know who is supervising that work in the Quilon Division?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : The nearest Assistant Engineer who is eligible for supervising the Maramath work.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Has he any power to supervise the work in the capacity of the Assistant Engineer?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : Yes. But the Deputy Chief Engineer generally inspects the whole work.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know whether amalgamation was effected in view to bring about savings?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : Not only that. But also for the sake of executing maramath works with facility and expedition.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : What is surplus that was got as a result of amalgamation ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : About Rs. 20,000.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : May I know whether the surplus has been added on to the Devaswom Fund ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT : No, but I have never known Government refuse consent to granting funds for Maramath works.

PRESIDENT : As this is a very important matter I think I might clear the position by a few observations. I want it to be distinctly understood that, although a saving has resulted from the amalgamation of the Maramath Department with the Public Works Department, such saving was not the main object of the Government in making the amalgamation. It was found that there was one Maramath Engineer who was in charge of repairs, renovation and constructions in regard to hundreds or rather thousands of religious endowments and temples throughout the State. It meant considerable travel and incidental travelling expenses, and also supervision which was in its nature sporadic and fragmentary; and Government felt that they were not getting the value for the money spent on the works. It is not, and will not be the Government's intention just as it is not the Government's intention to scrutinise Christian establishments through non-Christian agencies, to supervise one set of religious institutions by followers of another faith. It will be the object of this Government to see that no religious infractions follow from any secular arrangement in managing these institutions. The amalgamation was undertaken for the following purposes. As things are, there are quite a number of Hindu officers of all grades, in the department of Public Works, in various districts and localities. The P. W. D. have certain facilities for new constructions and repairs, and they can utilise those facilities with more economy, more expedition and more effectiveness, because their officials are on the spot. The question is whether we should have a separate officer or functionary working separately, or whether the present P. W. D. establishment could not be utilised for the purpose. Let it be clearly understood that the Devaswom Department Budget is separate and is not mixed up with the general Budget. Let it be equally and distinctly understood that the Maramath Department Budget is separate and is not mixed up, nor is it contemplated to mix it up, with the general Budget. Let it further be understood that there is no question of mixing up one fund with the other or utilising one fund for another purpose. Therefore, when it is realised that the Devaswom Budget is a fixed amount, when it is realised that the Maramath Department Budget is also fixed from time to time, when it is realised that there is a Maramath Committee, composed of the Secretary in charge of the Department of Public Works, the Deputy Chief Engineer and the Devaswom Commissioner (now it is composed

of Mr. Narayanan Unnithan, Mr. Sesha Aiyar and Mr. Sri Rengannatha Sastri), it will be conceded that no difficulties need arise. The Devaswom Commissioner, as a result of his inspection as well as the report made to him by his assistants makes a list of temples and institutions which need repair. That is placed before the Committee. The Committee makes out a kind of programme and hands over that programme to the Hindu Officers of the P. W. D. Such supervision as is possible by Mr. Truscott or his assistants is exercised only in a professional capacity. They have neither the right nor the competence to say that a certain work shall not be done or done in a particular manner.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : In view of the President's statement, I beg to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI : Sir I beg to move the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government that a Committee be immediately appointed to conduct an industrial and economic survey of the State with special reference to the question of unemployment with a view to concert measures to co-ordinate the industrial with the agricultural development of the State and to solve the pressing and urgent problem of unemployment."

PRESIDENT : May I interrupt the honourable member. In 1941 the decennial census will have to take place. If a census of this kind is started now it will involve a tremendous amount of money by way of expenditure. The Census Commissioner and his staff will collect tremendous amount of information and they are going to be asked by the All India Census Commissioner, and certainly the Travancore Census Commissioner will have that very same purpose in view as the honourable member has in mind that of the collection of all possible data for the purpose of making an industrial and economic survey of the State with special reference to this deplorable question of unemployment. Once those figures and statistics are collected, then a committee composed of officials and non-officials can go into the question. But to start a survey now will be to reduplicate the expenditure, which I am sure, the honourable member will not like to embark.

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI : My intention is to bring this to the notice of the Government sufficiently early so as to enable them to include this item also in the next census.

I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution, by leave, was withdrawn.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : I beg to move the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that adequate and deserving grant-in-aid be given to the recognised Sanskrit schools in the State under the management of private agencies."

It is highly necessary in a State like Travancore that Sanskrit education should be substantially encouraged by Government. More than

[Mr. Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

61.5 per cent. of the total population of the State are Hindus and many valuable books of the Hindus are written in Sanskrit. The religion of the majority is therefore closely wedded to the use of Sanskrit. Sanskrit is the repository of Hindu Culture. The keen interest for a separate university manifested by public opinion in Travancore was to a large extent due to the attachment of the people towards Malayalam and Sanskrit literature and Kerala Art and culture and the desire for the conservation, development and enrichment of their cultural and literary traditions. It is more than 50 years since a Sanskrit College was established in Triyandrum which consists of a college section and a high school section. Not a single Sanskrit school was established by the Government or the Department afterwards. This shows that the Government or the Department are not taking any interest in the matter of giving encouragement to Sanskrit. Sanskrit is the only language in which through which higher education is possible in Ayurveda, Astrology and Silpasastra and above all, the Hindu Philosophy. But valuable services are being rendered by private agencies in the State by opening Sanskrit schools in different parts of the State. I am constrained to observe that adequate grant-in-aid is not at all given to these private institutions and I am personally aware that such schools cannot be run in a satisfactory manner without deserving grant-in-aid being given to them by the Department. So I submit that it is highly necessary that more deserving grant-in-aid should be given by the Department to the Sanskrit schools under the management of private agencies. With these words, I move the resolution for the acceptances of the House.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ നവോത്ഥാന സമിതി സംസ്കൃതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ ഇന്ന് അതീവ ശ്രദ്ധാലുക്കളാണ്. സാധാരണജനങ്ങൾക്കുപോലും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ താല്പര്യം പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. സംസ്കൃതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നടത്താൻ കൂടുതൽ ആസക്തി പലരും പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പ്രോത്സാഹനമില്ല. സംസ്കൃതവിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾക്കുകൂടി മറ്റു വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളെപ്പോലെതന്നെ ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുത്തു സഹായിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റും ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റും മേലധികാരികളും ഭയമായി ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. പല അവസരത്തിലും ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഈ നിയമസഭയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ നടന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ താല്പര്യവും ശ്രദ്ധയും അറിഞ്ഞു സംസ്കൃതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ പ്രോത്സാഹനവിഷയത്തിലും ഗവണ്മെന്റും ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി കമ്മീഷണറുമെന്തെങ്കിലും എന്റയും അഭ്യർത്ഥന. ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗ്രാൻറും മറ്റാണുകൂലിയും നൽകി ഗവണ്മെന്റും സഭയും ചെയ്യുന്ന സഹായം സംസ്കൃതവിദ്യാലയങ്ങളുടെ പുരോഗമനത്തിനു പ്രോത്സാഹനമായിക്കാണാൻ താല്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: I am glad that this question has come up again in the form of a resolution before the House because it has given me an opportunity of stating categorically what has been done by the Government in the way of encouragement of Sanskrit in the country. It is quite easy to see that from the grants given by the Government to various institutions in the past. On an average Rs. 900 per month is given by way of grant-in-aid to Sanskrit schools. I do not think that the charge of not giving encouragement to Sanskrit education can be maintained. Sir, it has been stated that because a large percentage of population is composed of Hindus we owe a duty to Sanskrit culture. Certainly we do and that is why the propagation of Sanskrit culture is being encouraged by the Department of the University. As for the schools, I had the misfortune to visit some of them where the students know neither Malayalam nor Sanskrit. I doubt whether they deserve any help at all. A gentleman to whom I declined to give sanction for a Sanskrit school the other day, wrote inviting curses on me because I denied him a means of livelihood. His mission was certainly not mere propagation of Sanskrit curricula. I do not think Government are bound to provide employment to all people qualified in Sanskrit by allowing them to start schools which do not serve either education or culture. The Department employ these agencies for the purpose of Sanskrit education and it is doing its very best to maintain the level of efficiency in these schools. But only such as are serving a useful purpose can be given help. Just recently, two months ago, a school was granted aid after careful consideration. I may assure Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai that there are other cases under consideration for further grants. In the light of these observations, I request Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai to withdraw his resolution.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution, by leave, was withdrawn.

DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS TO TEACHERS IN AIDED SCHOOLS.

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI: I beg to move the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that grants to teachers in aided schools be paid direct to the teachers themselves by the departmental authorities.

It is a well-known fact that there is no class of people which deserves our sympathy more than the grant-in-aid teachers. It is also a well known fact that the grant-in-aid given by the Department is inclusive of the compensation that the managers get for conducting these schools. Even the small amount of grant is not usually given to the teachers, so that they have to depend upon the tender mercies of the management. I do not include all the managers in this category. There are managers and managers. But in the majority of cases I fear the managers seldom pay the full amount or a good portion of the